

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A device to eliminate trimmings or scraps from series of products comprising an input member for the products; an output member for the products; at least one continuous movable upper flexible member carrying a series of contact members for the products aligned with one another, a section of said movable upper flexible member being devoid of said contact members to allow trimmings to fall; at least one stationary longitudinal lower supporting element of the products, parallel to said movable upper flexible member and bridging said input member and said output member, ~~a reciprocal an~~ essentially aligned position of said flexible member and of said longitudinal lower supporting element being such that the products advance in contact with and supported during elimination of said trimmings (1) by the contact members of the flexible member and (2) by the longitudinal lower supporting element to said output member; at least one pusher to insert the series of products with respective trimmings between said flexible member and said longitudinal lower supporting element; wherein said flexible member is controlled with a cyclically variable speed to carry the section thereof devoid of contact members every time to a

level of tail and head trimmings of two consecutive series of products.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Canceled).

4. (Previously Presented) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said continuous flexible member has at least one second contact member designed to grasp at least a first product of each series and make the first product advance.

5. (Previously Presented) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least some of the contact members are provided with a contact surface for the products having a low friction coefficient, to allow said products to slide with respect to said at least one longitudinal supporting element.

6. (Previously Presented) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said flexible member is controlled at a variable speed to accelerate at least a last product of each series with respect to the pusher therebehind.

7. (Previously Presented) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said flexible member is controlled at a variable speed to accelerate and, optionally, subsequently decelerate, at least a first product of each series with respect to a subsequent product.

8. (Previously Presented) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said flexible member is controlled to advance at a lower speed or to stop during an interval of time between arrival of a first product and arrival of a last product of each series, during said interval of time the products being pushed by said pusher and sliding along the flexible member resting on the contact members.

9. (Previously Presented) Device as claimed in claim 1 or 4, wherein one or more of said contact members disposed at each end of the series of contact members carried by said flexible member, adjacent to said portion of the flexible member devoid of contact members, can be operated to have a grasping effect on the products in contact therewith.

10. (Previously Presented) Device as claimed in claim 1 or 4, wherein said contact members designed to grasp said products are mounted movable, with respect to the flexible member which carries the contact members, at least in a direction essentially orthogonal to said flexible member.

11. (Previously Presented) Device as claimed in claim 1 or 4, wherein the contact members designed to grasp the products have a movable portion.

12. (Previously Presented) Device as claimed in claim 11, wherein a fixed control profile acts on said movable portions, an elastic element being provided to hold each of

said movable portions in contact with said fixed control profile.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Canceled).

15. (Previously Presented) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said flexible member is laterally staggered with respect to said longitudinal supporting element.

16. (Canceled).

17. (Previously Presented) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said flexible member is controlled to be accelerated synchronously with a position of said pusher, to distance a last product of each series from the pusher therebehind.

18. (Previously Presented) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said flexible member is controlled to be accelerated synchronously with a position of said pusher, to distance a first product of each series at least temporarily from a subsequent product.

19. (Previously Presented) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said flexible member includes a pair of parallel chains, one of said chains being provided with a plurality of intermediate contact members, said intermediate contact members being arranged in a laterally staggered position with respect to said longitudinal supporting element.

20. (Previously Presented) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first contact member designed to grasp at least the last product of each series of products includes two shoes and means are provided to control a grasping motion of said shoes.

21. (Previously Presented) Device as claimed in claim 4, wherein said second contact member designed to grasp at least the first product of each series of products includes two shoes and means are provided to control a grasping motion of said shoes.

22. (Previously Presented) Device as claimed in claim 20, wherein the two shoes of said first contact member are controlled by a fixed cam profile, which controls a closing motion of said shoes.

23. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 20, wherein said flexible member includes a pair of parallel chains, one of said chains being provided with a plurality of intermediate contact members, said intermediate contact members being arranged in a laterally staggered position with respect to said longitudinal supporting element and wherein each shoe of said first contact member is carried by a respective one of said chains.

24. (Previously Presented) Device as claimed in claim 4, wherein at least one of said first contact member or said

second contact member designed to grasp said products includes jaws- or pliers-shaped grasping members.

25. (Withdrawn) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one pusher has a slot in which the longitudinal supporting element penetrates when said pusher pushes the products between the longitudinal supporting element and the flexible member.

26. (Previously Presented) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said products are rolls obtained from cutting a log.

Claims 27-43 (Canceled).

44. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 21, wherein said flexible member includes a pair of parallel chains, one of said chains being provided with a plurality of intermediate contact members, said intermediate contact members being arranged in a laterally staggered position with respect to said longitudinal supporting element and wherein each shoe of said second contact member is carried by a respective one of said chains.

45. (Canceled).

46. (Canceled).

47. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 48, wherein said at least one of said contact members is structured to cyclically co-act with an activation member to

mechanically grip and release said at least a last product of said series of products.

48. (Currently Amended) A device to eliminate trimmings or scraps from series of products comprising an input member for the products; an output member for the products; at least one continuous movable upper flexible member carrying a series of contact members for the products aligned with one another, a section of said movable upper flexible member being devoid of said contact members to allow trimmings to fall; at least one stationary longitudinal lower supporting element of the products, parallel to said movable upper flexible member and bridging said input member and said output member, ~~a reciprocal an~~ essentially aligned position of said flexible member and of said longitudinal lower supporting element being such that the products advance in contact with and supported during elimination of said trimmings (1) by the contact members of the flexible member and (2) by the longitudinal lower supporting element to said output member; at least one pusher to insert the series of products with respective trimmings between said flexible member and said longitudinal lower supporting element; wherein said flexible member is controlled with a cyclically variable speed to carry the section thereof devoid of contact members every time to a

level of tail and head trimmings of two consecutive series of products; and wherein at least one of said contact members is constructed and arranged to cyclically mechanically grip and release at least a last product of said series of products.

49. (Currently Amended) A device to eliminate trimmings or scraps from series of products comprising at least one continuous movable upper flexible member carrying a series of contact members for the products aligned with one another, a section of said movable upper flexible member being devoid of said contact members to allow trimmings to fall; at least one stationary longitudinal lower supporting element of the products, parallel to said movable upper flexible member, ~~a reciprocal~~ an essentially aligned position of said flexible member and of said longitudinal lower supporting element being such that the products advance in contact with and supported during elimination of said trimmings (1) by the contact members of the flexible member and (2) by the longitudinal lower supporting element to an output member; at least one pusher to insert the series of products with respective trimmings between said flexible member and said longitudinal lower supporting element; wherein said flexible member is controlled with a cyclically variable speed such that every time a new series

of products is introduced into the device said section of said flexible member devoid of contact members is caused to be phased with positioning of tail and head trimmings of two consecutive series of products.

50. (Currently Amended) A device to eliminate trimmings or scraps from series of products comprising at least one continuous movable upper flexible member carrying a series of contact members for the products aligned with one another, a section of said movable upper flexible member being devoid of said contact members to allow trimmings to fall; at least one stationary longitudinal lower supporting element of the products, parallel to said movable flexible member, ~~a reciprocal~~ an essentially aligned position of said flexible member and of said longitudinal lower supporting element being such that the products advance in contact with and supported during elimination of said trimmings (1) by the contact members of the flexible member and (2) by the longitudinal lower supporting element to an output member; at least one pusher to insert the series of products with respective trimmings between said flexible member and said longitudinal lower supporting element; wherein said flexible member is controlled with a cyclically variable speed such that every time a new series of products is introduced into the device said section of said flexible member devoid of

contact members is caused to be phased with positioning of tail and head trimmings of two consecutive series of products; and wherein at least one of said contact members is constructed and arranged to cyclically mechanically grip and release at least a last product of said series of products.

51. (Currently Amended) A device to eliminate trimmings or scraps from series of products comprising an input member for the products; an output member for the products; at least one continuous movable upper flexible member carrying a series of contact members for the products aligned with one another, a section of said movable upper flexible member being devoid of said contact members to allow trimmings to fall; at least one longitudinal stationary lower supporting element of the products, parallel to said movable upper flexible member and bridging said input member and said output member, a reciprocal an essentially aligned position of said flexible member and of said longitudinal lower supporting element being such that the products advance in contact with and supported (1) by the contact members of the flexible member and (2) by the longitudinal lower supporting element to an output member; at least one pusher to insert the series of products with respective trimmings between said flexible member and said

longitudinal lower supporting element; wherein said flexible member is controlled with a cyclically variable speed to carry the section thereof devoid of contact members every time to a level of tail and head trimmings of two consecutive series of products.

52. (New) A device according to claims 1, 48, 49, 50 or 51, wherein each contact member of said series of contact members is structured to press against an underlying product in said series of products, and said device further includes a control device for selectively accelerating and decelerating said flexible member and thereby said contact members.

53. (New) A device to eliminate trimmings or scraps from series of products comprising an input member for the products; an output member for the products; at least one continuous movable upper flexible member carrying a series of contact members for the products aligned with one another, a section of said movable upper flexible member being devoid of said contact members to allow trimmings to fall, said movable upper flexible member having a leading contact member structured to grip at least a first product of each series of products and advance the first product from the input member to the output member, said leading contact member being adjacent to said series of contact

members; a control device in relation to said movable upper flexible member which controls said leading contact member; at least one stationary longitudinal lower supporting element of the products positioned parallel to said movable upper flexible member and bridging said input member and said output member, said movable upper flexible member and said stationary longitudinal lower supporting element being essentially aligned such that the series of products advance in contact with and supported during elimination of said trimmings (1) by the contact members of the flexible member and (2) by the longitudinal lower supporting element; at least one pusher to insert the series of products with respective trimmings between said flexible member and said longitudinal lower supporting element and towards said output member; wherein said flexible member is controlled with a cyclically variable speed to carry the section thereof devoid of contact members every time to a level of tail and head trimmings of two consecutive series of products which said upper flexible member contacts.

54. (New) Device as claimed in claim 53, further comprising a trailing contact member structured to grip at least a last product of each of said series of products, wherein said series of contact members are arranged between said leading contact member and said trailing contact

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member, and said section of the movable upper flexible member devoid of contact members is present between said trailing contact member and said leading contact member, wherein said control device also controls said trailing contact member.